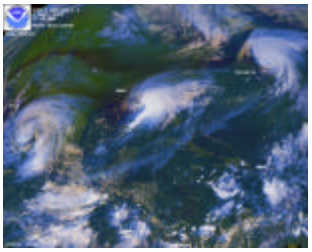
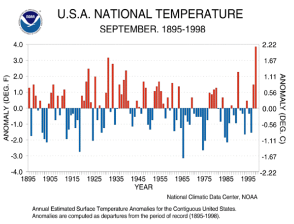
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Command and Data Acquisition Station, Wallops, VA (above) and Fairbanks, Alaska (below)



This image from GOES-8 shows three hurricanes off the U.S. Atlantic coast in September 1998.

Storage, access, and maintenance of valuable data is imperative for understanding our environment. Scientific, business, and policy decisions are made based on NOAA data.



This chart shows annual estimated surface temperature anomalies for the U.S.

The National Requirement: The Nation requires a national system capable of providing timely and accurate remotely sensed environmental data from satellite systems. NESDIS satellites provide 85 percent of the data used by the National Weather Service for forecasting activities. Early warning of major weather events saves countless lives and prevents substantial property damage. Scientists researching long-term climatic, oceanographic, and geophysical effects on the environment depend on NESDIS data archives for their studies that describe and predict the state of the physical environment.

NOAA's Response: NESDIS manages the U.S. operational environmental satellite systems and the global databases for meteorology, oceanography, solid-earth geophysics, and solar-terrestrial sciences. NOAA's polar-orbiting satellites that orbit continuously around the globe and its geostationary satellites stationed over the United States, work together to provide daily global data on weather conditions, atmospheric temperature structure, volcanoes, sea surface temperature, forest fires, ozone levels, hurricanes, and typhoons. These satellites monitor storms and provide advance warnings of emerging severe weather critical to providing early storm warnings. In support of environmental data needs, NESDIS gathers global data about the oceans, Earth, air, space, and sun and their interactions to describe and predict the state of the physical environment. NESDIS data centers archive the data to assist scientists in fully understanding Earth systems and long-term climatic, oceanographic, and geophysical effects on the environment.

The Environmental Observing Services (EOS) and the NOAA Data Centers & Information Services programs, financed in the Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF) appropriation, provide the foundation that protects the NOAA investment in observing systems and data. EOS supports activities associated with the operational control, and the health and safety of several billion dollars of on-orbit satellite equipment, 365 days per year, 24 hours per day. This line item also supports the production and distribution of satellite products and the development of new and improved applications and products from current and future satellites. The NOAA Data Centers & Information Services activity supports the National Climatic Data Center, the National Oceanographic Data Center, and the National Geophysical Data Center, which archive, and ensure accessibility to the Nation's historical environmental data. Scientists, insurance companies, lawyers, and academicians use these data to resolve issues related to commerce, business, agriculture, science, engineering, and public safety programs.

Financing: The FY 2003 Budget request for ORF includes $151.9 million for NESDIS to support these activities. The budget also includes $612.8 million in the Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction account for the procurement of spacecraft, launches, and ground systems supporting Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite system, Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite system, and National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System acquisition activities.